(c) and (d) Any company involved in the development of GM food crop has to undertake extensive biosafety assessment which includes invironmental safety assessment as well as food and feed safety as well as agronomic evaluation. The environmental safety assessment includes studies on pollen escape out - crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of the protein in soil and its effect on soil microflora, confirmation of the absence of Terminator Gene, baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety assessment studies include composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. Only those transgenic crops which are found to be safe for human consumption as well as the environment are approved for large scale trials. The product is approved for environmental release only when there is a clear socio-economic and technical justification for release of the product.

Joint crack down by army and forest staff on poachers

1852. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to get army and forest staff to work together to crack down on poaching in reserves; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such decision taken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

National Forest Commission on forest conservation efforts

1853. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the National Forest Commission

(NFC), lack of political will, forestry institutions in disarray and a forest administration without vision are some of the problems plaguing the country's forest conservation efforts;

(b) whether it is a fact that the committee has recommended an ambitious plan for forest certification and initiation of a Project Bustard to save the great Indian Bustard with only 500 left in the world; and

(c) if so, the response of Government and the action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However, National Forest Commission has recommended that the Central and State Governments are to give unstinted political commitment for providing financial & infrastructure support to forest conservation in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. National Forest Commission has recommended specifically to save Great Indian Bustard and also emphasizes the need to monitor & assess the forests with the help of criteria and indicator for sustainable forest management.

(c) The Government is providing legal support under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and financial support under the centrally sponsored scheme of Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for wildlife conservation in the country including conservation of the Great Indian Bustard.

The Government of India has developed 43 indicators for assessment of sustainability of forests.

Submerging of coastal villages of Orissa in sea

1854. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of cases of coastal villages of Orissa being submerged in sea;

(b) whether Government have studied new pattern of recurrent heat waves and cyclone in the coastal Orissa;

(c) if so, the details of the causes of extreme climatic changes; and